



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Iowa Ag News – Labor



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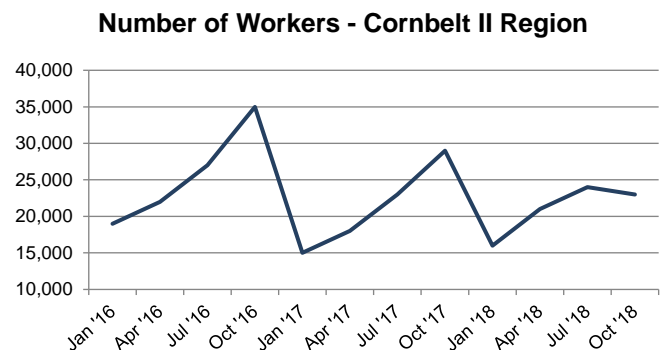
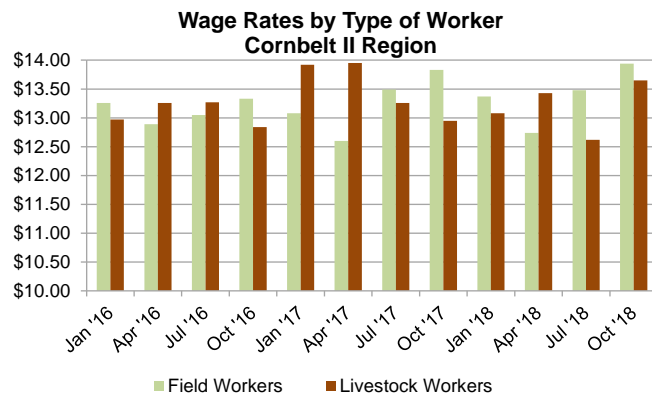
Cooperating with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

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There were 24,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Cornbelt II Region (Iowa and Missouri) during the reference week of July 8-14, 2018, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Farm Labor Report*. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$13.84 per hour, down \$0.14 from July 2017. The number of hours worked averaged 33.4 for hired workers during the reference week, compared with 37.4 hours in July 2017.

During the reference week of October 7-13 2018, there were 23,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Cornbelt II Region (Iowa and Missouri). Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$14.53 per hour during the October 2018 reference week, up \$0.49 from October 2017. The number of hours worked averaged 35.6 for hired workers during the reference week, down from 35.8 hours in October 2017.



Hired Workers, Hours Worked and Wage Rates – Cornbelt II Region and United States: 2017-2018

[Cornbelt II Region includes Iowa and Missouri]

	Cornbelt II Region			United States		
	October 2017	July 2018	October 2018	October 2017	July 2018	October 2018
Hired workers on farms..... 1,000 workers	29	24	23	840	843	784
Hours worked by hired workers hours per week	35.8	33.4	35.6	41.6	41.2	41.5
Wage rate ¹						
Field and livestock combined..... dollars per hour	13.55	13.15	13.85	12.66	13.48	13.64
Field dollars per hour	13.83	13.48	13.94	12.83	13.58	13.74
Livestock dollars per hour	12.95	12.62	13.65	12.22	13.22	13.38
All hired workers dollars per hour	14.04	13.84	14.53	13.42	14.28	14.47

¹ Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

UNITED STATES LABOR

There were 784,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 7-13, 2018, down 7 percent from the October 2017 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 843,000 during the week of July 8-14, 2018, down 4 percent from the July 2017 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$14.47 per hour during the October 2018 reference week, up 8 percent from the October 2017 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$13.74 per hour, an increase of 7 percent. Livestock workers earned \$13.38 per hour, up 9 percent. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$13.64 per hour, was up 8 percent from the 2017 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 41.5 hours during the October 2018 reference week, down slightly from the hours worked during the October 2017 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$14.28 per hour during the July 2018 reference week, up 8 percent from the July 2017 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$13.58 per hour, up 8 percent, while livestock workers earned \$13.22 per hour, up 8 percent from a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$13.48 per hour, was up 8 percent from the July 2017 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 41.2 hours during the July 2018 reference week, down slightly from the hours worked during the July 2017 reference week.

The 2018 all hired worker annual average wage rate was \$14.17 per hour, up 6 percent from the 2017 annual average wage. The 2018 field worker annual average wage rate was \$13.32 per hour, up 6 percent from the 2017 annual average. The 2018 annual average combined wage for field and livestock workers was \$13.25, up 6 percent from the 2017 annual average of \$12.47 per hour.

October Reference Week

For the October 2018 reference week, only the Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) region saw a large increase in the number of hired workers from the 2017 reference week, with 20 percent more workers on the region's farms.

The largest percentage decreases in the number of hired workers from the 2017 reference week occurred in the Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi), Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah), and Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina) regions. The Southeast region saw the biggest decline, with workers down 29 percent from the 2017 reference week.

The largest percentage increases in average wage rates for all hired workers occurred in the Mountain I (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming), Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah), and Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico) regions.

July Reference Week

For the July 2018 reference week, the largest percentage increases in the number of hired workers from the 2017 reference week occurred in the Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) and Northern Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota) regions. The Northern Plains region saw the largest increase, with 17 percent more workers on the region's farms.

The largest percentage decreases in the number of hired workers from the 2017 reference week occurred in the Mountain I (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming), Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah), and Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina) regions. The Southeast region saw the biggest decline, with workers down 31 percent from the 2017 reference week.

The largest percentage increases in average wage rates for all hired workers occurred in the Mountain I (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming), Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah), and Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico) regions.